(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two persons Mohd Jawed Azmath and Ayub Ali Khan carrying Indian travel documents were detained in Texas shortly after the WTC attacks. They were held on immigration violations and are being treated as material witnesses in the WTC attacks.

(c) The Government is of the view that due process of law of the USA should be allowed to have its course in this case.

Arrest of Pak High Commission official

†528. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an official of Pakistan High Commission has been arrested on the charge of taking secret documents from two employees of the Indian Navy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to check such incidents in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) A staff member of the Pakistan High Commission was apprehended on November 1, 2001 while receiving some classified documents from two employees of the Indian Navy.

(c) and (d) The Government remains constantly vigilant about the security of the country.

Violence against Hindus in Bangladesh

†529. PROF. R.B.S. VERMA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following the recent elections in Bangladesh, the minorities particularly the Hindus have been subjected to harassment and violence;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps so far in this regard for protection of life and property of the minorities and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Bangladesh have been apprised of the Indian Government's reaction to the brutal and inhuman killings of the minorities and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 515.*]

Construction of Indian Embassy Building in Brazil

530. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Government of Brazil had gifted a land in 1965 to the Indian Embassy in Brasilia for construction of an Embassy Complex;

(b) whether the Embassy Complex had been constructed on the gifted land;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) how much amount was paid as rent of leased Buildings, expenditure on Property taxes, local taxes, etc. as on the 31st March, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, the Government of Brazil had gifted a plot of land to the Government of India in 1965 for construction of an Embassy complex. The Government had initiated steps at various points of time for undertaking construction project including engagement of an architect for conceptual layout plan and for determination of estimated cost of construction. The economic viability of the project is yet to be established. The main reason being high cost of construction prevailing in Brazil compared with relatively lower rental structure. The cost of construction in Brazil at US $1,000 per sq. meter is extremely exorbitant, whereas in most of the other countries the cost of construction is in the range of US $ 400-500 per sq. meter.

(d) The rental paid in Brazil in the past 20 years works out to Rs. 11.2 crores.The Annual rental liability to the Government in respect of leased